Reviewer's report

Title: Inadequacy of nutrients intake among pregnant women in unrest areas of southern Thailand

Version: 2 Date: 27 July 2010

Reviewer: REKIA BELAHSEN

Reviewer's report:

Comments

Thanks to the authors for their answers to the comments made about the manuscript entitled “Inadequacy of nutrients intake among pregnant women in unrest areas of southern Thailand” (by Phnom Sukchan et al.). The manuscript is improved and the authors responded to many of the comments made. However, still some few questions that I wonder if the authors could answer before the publication of the paper.

The major critic concerns the interest of the study with regard to the selection of the sample as well as the sample area. The authors need to answer to the following cited as examples of these comments:
1- The authors indicated in the page 3 (last paragraph) that:
"Narathiwat is the southernmost province of Thailand. Ethnic disharmony there has led to serious unrest since 2004. Importantly…….
My question here is: how the paper results will be useful for the planning of interventions in such area and what are the solutions to bring to the problem of ethnic disharmony?
2- Also, in the page 9 (first paragraph of the results section):
How we can link the nutrients statuses to the violent areas, while the authors indicated that there are no folic acid, vitamin C, iodine, retinol and riboflavin deficiencies?
3- What is the situation in the non violent areas? Did the authors compare the inadequacy nutrient intake and status in violent vs violent areas?
4- How the authors can explain the lower inadequacy prevalence in low BMI than in normal BMI in the context of this study (always in relation with the violence).
5- In the first paragraph of the discussion section (page9, 3rd sentence) : the authors mentioned also that :
The most important factors associated with these nutrients inadequacies were: low educational attainment, young maternal age and early gestational age.
And

They also added in the same section (the 2 last sentences of page 10) that higher education is associated with better access to health education and media that promote a healthy diet. This explanation could be applied to any area and not only to the unrest area?

6- In the Conclusion section, I again have the same comments, I disagree on how the authors concluded on the paper results suggesting that education and political unrest are the strongest social determinant of nutrient inadequacy.

The manuscript still needs some revision and editing. Some sentences need to be revised (example: the sentence before the last one in page 10).

Finally, I believe that the paper is more about the determination of inadequacy of nutrients intake among pregnant women from southern Thailand” and I suggest that the authors change the title of this paper by removing the term “unrest areas” and rewrite the paper considering this change.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.